



2026 Surf to City Yacht Race Notice of Race



Growth, prosperity, community.



Race Day: Saturday 07th February 2026



Queensland Cruising Yacht Club Surf to City Yacht Race 2026

Notice of Race

The 33rd Anniversary Surf to City Yacht Race will be conducted on the waters of the Queensland Coast between Southport and Shorncliffe. The race will be held on Saturday, February 7th, 2026.

Owners and charterers of eligible boats are invited to enter on the conditions of this Notice of Race.

The race is organised and conducted by Queensland Cruising Yacht Club ("The Organising Authority").

There are two courses. The Inshore course charts a course inside of the Stradbroke Islands. The Offshore course goes outside of the Stradbroke Islands and Moreton Island. The start of the race will be in the vicinity of Gold Coast Seaway, and the finish will be in the vicinity of Shorncliffe headland.

The race is a 49 nautical mile passage race for the Inshore Fleet and 94 nautical mile passage race for the Offshore Fleet. Details of the courses will be included in the Sailing Instructions.

1. RULES

1.1. General

The race will be governed by the current versions of:

- the rules, as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028 of World Sailing;
- the IRC 2024 Rules Parts 1, 2 and 3 as amended;
- the ORC Rating System 2024 rules as amended;
- the OMR Specification 2023 Version 9 rules as amended;
- Australian CBH Rating System Document (effective 01/07/2024)

- the rules and regulations of each One Design Class for which there is an eligible boat entered in the race;
- the current Prescriptions, Special Regulations and amendments of Australian Sailing (Special Regulations) effective 1 July 2021;
- applicable Special Regulations category:
 - Inshore Fleet - Category 5N
 - Offshore Fleet – Category 4 Uprated
- and this Notice of Race (NOR) except as any of these that are modified by the Sailing Instructions (SI).

1.2. Responsibility of Person in Charge

1.2.1 The safety of a boat and their crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge who shall do their best to ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. They must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails, and all gear. They shall ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used. They shall also nominate a person to take over the responsibilities of the Person in Charge in the event of their incapacitation.

1.2.2 Neither the establishment of these Special Regulations, their use by race organizers, or the inspection of a boat under these Special Regulations in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the person in charge.

1.2.3 The attention of every person is drawn to Special Regulation 1.02 and also to the importance of having suitable and adequate personal insurance. It is the responsibility of owners to ensure their crew has had this drawn to their attention.

1.3. Decision to Race

The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in this race or to continue to participate is theirs alone - RRS Fundamental Rule 3.

1.4. Amendments to the Notice of Race

The Organising Authority reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race. Amendments will be published on the event website (www.surftocity.com). In addition, notices of amendments will also be sent to all entrants via email.

1.5. Binding Nature of Documentation

By entering the Race, the owner of a boat agrees that this Notice of Race (including amendments), the entry, the rules and regulations referenced in 1.1 and 1.2 and the Sailing Instructions, shall be complied with by the boat and the owner.

1.6. Sailing Instructions

The Sailing Instructions will be available from the Surf to City website (www.surftocity.com) from the Saturday prior to the Race.

A copy will also be distributed at the Official Race Briefing.

2. CHANGES TO RULES

2.1 Offshore Fleet

2.1.1. Changes to the IRC Rules

IRC Rule 21.1.5: A spare mainsail may be carried as a bona fide replacement for a mainsail damaged during the race.

IRC Rule 11.2 & 21.6.1: In accordance with a prescription by Australian Sailing, a boat in the IRC Handicap Category may carry one more spinnaker than shown on the boat's IRC Certificate without an increase of rating.

IRC Rule 22.4.2 shall not apply. The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the Crew Number printed on their certificate plus one. There is no crew weight limit.

2.1.2. Changes to the ORC Rules

Rule 206.1: A spare mainsail may be carried as a bona fide replacement for a mainsail damaged during the race and a boat that is also entered in the IRC division may carry the maximum number of spinnakers allowed under its IRC certificate plus the additional spinnaker allowed under IRC Rule 11.2 & 21.6.1

2.1.3. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing

RRS 41: Whilst racing a boat may retrieve data from any page of websites, the details of which will be provided in the Sailing Instructions, even if that page is not publicly available.

During the race, a boat shall not contact, or be in contact with, any person or private entity using any medium to receive meteorological or hydrographical information, however a boat may obtain assistance in the form of any readily available commercial meteorological or hydrographical information regardless of cost. Amends RRS 41(c).

RRS 51: A boat with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability.

RRS 52: RRS 52 does not apply to the adjustment and operation of sails or to the adjustment of movable appendages. For fully crewed boats, the rotation of a boat's rudder shall be adjusted and operated only by the power provided by the crew.

RRS 61.3: There is no time limit on protests by the Race Committee or Jury. Boats intending to protest shall inform Race Control of their intention via radio before finishing and complete the form within three hours of finishing.

RRS 78.2: Valid rating/class certificates shall be produced by the due date specified in this Notice of Race.

2.2 Inshore Fleet

2.2.1. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing

RRS 41: Whilst racing a boat may retrieve data from any page of websites, the details of which will be provided in the Sailing Instructions, even if that page is not publicly available.

During the race, a boat shall not contact, or be in contact with, any person or private entity using any medium to receive metrological or hydrographical information, however a boat may obtain assistance in the form of any readily available commercial meteorological or hydrographical information regardless of cost. Amends RRS 41(c).

RRS 42.3 (i) is amended to read: The Sailing Instructions will permit propulsion using an engine or any other method for the purposes of allowing a boat to continue racing following going aground. Penalty turns following the use of the engine or any other method will be required.

RRS 51: A boat with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability.

RRS 52: RRS 52 does not apply to the adjustment and operation of sails or to the adjustment of movable appendages on any boat.

RRS 61.3: There is no time limit on protests by the Race Committee or Jury. Boats intending to protest shall inform Race Control of their intention via radio before finishing and complete the form within three hours of finishing.

RRS 78.2: Valid rating/class certificates shall be produced by the due date specified in this Notice of Race.

2.2.2. Changes to the ORC Rules

Rule 206.1: A spare mainsail may be carried as a bona fide replacement for a mainsail damaged during the race

2.2.3. Changes to Australian Sailing Special Regulations

SR 3.25.1(b)(ii) is amended to read: "A permanently installed VHF transceiver OR a waterproof handheld VHF transceiver of a minimum 5 watt is required. If the latter option is used a mobile telephone in a waterproof container that is switched on and working must also be carried. The mobile telephone number must be supplied to the OA and you will be expected to contact the Race Office throughout the race on a predetermined schedule."

3. ELIGIBILITY OF BOATS

3.1. General Requirements

A boat shall:

- comply with Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1 and its amendments for Race Category 4 Uprated or 5N as appropriate. Off the beach type dinghies and catamarans are not eligible.
- have a crew that satisfies the requirements of Notice of Race 3.9;
- if sailing with less than three crew on the offshore course, an extension speaker for the permanently installed VHF transceiver near the helming station is required. Alternatively, the helm must carry the waterproof handheld VHF transceiver at all times and the same must remain switched on.

3.2. Insurance

Each boat shall hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the boat current when racing, with a minimum cover of A\$10 million for any one incident. Offshore Fleet entrants must ensure the insurance policy covers the boat for races of a length greater than 94 nautical miles.

3.3. IRC Boats

A boat may only be entered in the IRC Handicap Category if the boat:

- (a) has a current, valid IRC Certificate, being an Endorsed Certificate issued by RORC or UNCL
- (b) complies with all of the current IRC Rules and Regulations, save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions (refer RRS 78.1).

3.4. ORC Boats

Offshore Race - A boat may only be entered in the ORCi Handicap Category if the boat:

- (a) has a current, valid ORCi Certificate
- (b) complies with all of the current ORCi Rating System Rules, save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions (refer RRS 78.1).

Inshore Race - A boat may only be entered in the ORCclub Handicap Category if the boat:

- (a) has a current, valid ORCclub Certificate
- (b) complies with all of the current ORCclub Rating System Rules, save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions (refer RRS 78.1).

3.5. CBH Boats

A boat may only be entered in the CBH Handicap Category if the boat:

- (a) has a current, valid CBH Rating issued by Australian Sailing.
- (b) complies with all of the current Australian CBH Rating System Document (effective 01/07/2024), save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions (refer RRS 78.1).

3.6. OMR Boats

A boat may only be entered in the OMR Handicap Category if the boat:

- (a) has a current, valid OMR Rating
- (b) complies with all of the current OMR Rating System Rules, save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions (refer RRS 78.1).

3.7. Safety Audits

A boat is required to have an Australian Sailing Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form, valid for the date of the race:

- (a) for the Inshore Course:
a current Category 5N (or higher) audit is required. An audit remains valid for 12 months from the date of inspection. The audit must be completed by an approved national auditor; self-auditing is not permitted.
- (b) for the Offshore Course:
a current Category 4 Uprated (or higher) audit is required. An audit remains valid for 12 months from the date of inspection. The audit must be completed by an approved national auditor; self-auditing is not permitted.

Note: The following clauses of the Special Regulations are to be uprated to Cat 3 requirements:

Monohull

Reg 3.24.1

Inboard engine, tank(s), fuel and exhaust system permanently installed

Reg 3.24.5

Minimum speed, charging and fuel.

Reg 3.24.6

Separate starter battery if electric starter

Reg 5.05.1

406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) with GPS; 1 per crew

Reg 5.05.2

(a) Within battery life

(b) Regularly tested

(c) Registered with relevant authority

Multihull

Reg 5.05.1

406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) with GPS; 1 per crew

Reg 5.05.2 – for

(a) Within battery life

(b) Regularly tested

(c) Registered with relevant authority

Note: Boats intending to enter the 2026 Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race are encouraged to submit a “B2G Category 3 updated” safety audit form valid for the date of the race, to avoid the need for another audit prior to Easter. If you are submitting a Category 3 updated or higher audit you must specify if you will be carrying the life raft listed on that audit.

3.8. Eligibility of Crew

All crew shall comply with RRS 2021-2024, Rule 46 i.e., be members of a club affiliated to Australian Sailing and have an Australian Sailing Number. Crew who do not hold an Australian Sailing Number may apply to the Organising Authority for a valid Sail Pass.

The minimum number of crew on a boat shall be two. A minimum of two crew members aged over 18 years as at February 06, 2026 shall be on board a boat.

For crew members younger than 18 years of age, a Juvenile Consent Form signed by a parent / guardian is required together with evidence of past sailing experience to be submitted prior to the race. The Organising Authority may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to allow any crew member aged under 18 years of age to participate in the race.

At least one crew member on a boat shall hold a Marine Radio Operators VHF Certificate of Proficiency (MROVCP) or higher qualification issued by a relevant authority for the VHF radio on board. Where there are only two crew on board, both crew members must meet the license requirements. Special Regs 3.25.8

3.9. Onshore Yacht Contact

An Onshore Yacht Contact (OYC) shall be nominated at the time of entry. It is the skipper’s responsibility to ensure that the OYC has a complete list of contact details and next of kin details of all crew members. The OYC must be contactable during the race and will be the primary contact for the Organising Authority in the event of an incident. **The OYC must understand the responsibility they are assuming.**

3.10. Determination of Eligibility

A decision of the Organising Authority or the Race Committee as to any matter under this paragraph 3, including as to whether a boat and their crew meet the eligibility criteria for entry in the race, is final and binding and shall not be grounds for a request for redress.

3.11. Inspections

In accordance with the Special Regulations Part 1, all safety equipment shall be on board and available for inspection. On request by the Race Committee, boats shall be made available for spot inspections to audit safety regulation compliance. Spot checks may be carried out at any time in the 24 hour period prior to the warning signal or after a boat finishes.

4. DOCUMENTATION TO BE LODGED

4.1. Application for Entry

An application for entry shall be made via the SailSys online entry system available at www.surftocity.com with the following items addressed:

- Entry fee(s) (Notice of Race 6)
 - A colour photograph of the boat suitable for search and rescue purposes.
 - Contact details of the Onshore Yacht Contact.

- A list of crew names, complete with mobile phone number, email address and Australian Sailing Number. Personal Location Beacon Hex Ids and Medical Conditions must also be provided for crew competing in the offshore division.
- A Juvenile Consent Form for each member of the crew with an age of less than 18 years old as at February 06th, 2026.
- Multihull boats entering an OMR division shall submit their crew weight declaration two days prior to the race.
- Boat EPIRB hex number, registered with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (*Offshore Fleet only*).
- Special Regulations Form for Category 4 Uprated, Category 3 Uprated, or higher, or 5N as appropriate.
- Proof of Public Liability Insurance as outlined in Notice of Race 3.2.
- Marine Radio Operators VHF Certificate of Proficiency (MROVCP) or higher qualification issued by a relevant authority for the VHF radio on board for at least one crew member. For two handed entries, both crew members must provide this evidence.
- Current valid IRC, ORCi, ORC club, or CBH rating certificate (*as applicable*)

A completed entry, plus the additional items specified above, shall be received by the Organising Authority on or before 1600 hours on Sunday, 01st February 2026.

The entry and the above items may be accepted after that date at the discretion of the Organising Authority, subject to a request for late acceptance being made and the late entry fee and penalty being applied.

Competitors found to be falsifying documentation, deliberately invalidating certificates of otherwise misleading the

Race Committee with regards to their entry documentation are subject to action under RRS 69.2. If found guilty the penalty could include disqualification from the Surf to City Yacht Race.

Privacy Note: Personal information about crew members is obtained in crew lists. That information is obtained for use in search and rescue situations and for media purposes. The information will be given to search and rescue authorities and organisations, the Water Police, volunteer coastal stations and media representatives, and may be passed on by them to other organisations. A condition of entry is that crew members are to be informed of this and advised that they may obtain access to the information held about them by contacting the Organising Authority.

5. CREW LIST

5.1 Crew Details

Crew details are to be completed in the SailSys online entry system. It is recommended that skippers/owners remind their crew to ensure all details are complete and current in their Crew Profiles as this information is used to auto populate the relevant fields in the online entry form. Any crew that do not have full and correct information will not be allowed to participate in the race.

5.2 Changes to Crew

A boat's crew list may be amended to correct errors or changed to allow for late crew changes or after protest but shall not be changed later than 08.00 on February 06, 2026. After any change to a crew list, the boat shall still satisfy general requirements of section 3.9.

6. FEES

6.1 Entry

Entry Fee - includes entry to PHS division	\$150
Entry fee for each additional category/division (<i>optional</i>)	\$30
Late entry fee	\$50
Late documentation penalty (per document):	2 minutes added to elapsed race time per outstanding document.

Fees shall be paid via credit card only. All fees include Australian Goods and Services Tax (a tax invoice will only be issued on request).

6.2 Withdrawals

Entries withdrawn before 1600 hours on Sunday, February 01, 2026, will be entitled to a 75% refund of entry fees paid. Entries withdrawn after this will not be entitled to any refund of Entry Fees.

7. HANDICAP CATEGORIES

7.1. Handicap Categories

The Surf to City Yacht Race will be conducted with the following handicap categories subject to final entry numbers:

Offshore Fleet

- IRC monohulls
- ORCi monohulls
- OMR multihulls
- PHS monohull
- PHS multihull
- Shorthanded PHS monohulls

Inshore Fleet

- CBH monohulls
- PHS monohull
- PHS multihulls
- ORC club monohulls
- OMR multihulls
- One design / Class - Skippers of any class e.g. RL24, Blazer can apply

for a special category to be included in the Race. Skippers should ensure there will be at least five boats within the category prior to application to the Organising Authority.

- All categories are subject to a minimum of five entrants. This does not apply to PHS categories.
- The Organising Authority's determination as to whether an additional handicap category or division will be accepted is final and binding.

7.2. Club Event

The Club event acknowledges the best performing Club in the Race. Entrants who are members of more than one Club should list the Club they wish to represent on their entry form. No extra entry fee required.

8. SCORING

8.1. IRC (Overall and all Divisions)

Results will be calculated by the application of the IRC Time Corrector (TCC) as a multiplier of elapsed time. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

8.2. ORC (Overall and all Divisions)

Results will be calculated by the application of the Time-on-Time Simplified Scoring Option, using the ToT All Purpose rating as printed on each boat's ORC Certificate, as a multiplier of elapsed time. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

8.3. CBH (Overall and all Divisions)

Results will be calculated by the application of the CBH Time Corrector Factor (TCF) as a multiplier of elapsed time.

The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

8.4. PHS (Overall and all Divisions)

Results will be calculated by the application of Time Correction Factors (TCF's) as a multiplier of elapsed time.

A boat's TCF will be determined by the Race Committee or its nominee. The TCF will not be subject to protest or dispute (amends RRS 60.1 and 62.1(a)).

The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

8.5. OMR (Overall and all Divisions)

Results will be calculated by the application of OMR Rating as a multiplier of elapsed time.

A boat's OMR Rating will be determined by a MYCQ delegate, after the boat's skipper has declared crew weight data. The rating will not be subject to protest or dispute (amends RRS 60.1 and 62.1(a)).

The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

8.6. One design classes

The boat to finish first will be scored first.

8.7. Club event

The scores for each club will be calculated by accumulating the best three scores within the PHRF categories from all the boats from each club. If a club does not have the required number of competitors, a default score shall be awarded for each missing competitor.

9. COMPULSORY RACE BRIEFING

A race briefing (including a Weather Briefing) will be held at Southport Yacht Club at 2030 on Friday, February 06, 2026 (to be confirmed).

The skipper and one other member of the crew shall physically attend the compulsory briefing.

The briefing will be Live Streamed via the Race Facebook page. It is recommended that all other crew members watch the Live Stream. (pre-registration is not required).

10. EVENT CLASSIFICATION AND ADVERTISING

10.1. General

Advertising on a boat shall comply with ISAF Regulation 20 (ISAF Advertising Code). The Organising Authority may decline to accept an application for entry of a boat which, in its opinion, is carrying advertising which conflicts with governmental regulations or event sponsors. In any case of doubt, the Organising Authority should be consulted as soon as practicable.

An application for entry shall contain brief details of all advertising that a boat intends to carry. The Organising Authority shall be advised of all changes to that advertising.

The advertising rules apply from 0700 hours on the morning of the race until completion of final presentation.

10.2. Trademark Restriction

"Surf to City Yacht Race" is a mark of the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club and the use of the mark and logo is absolutely restricted and limited to use by or with the consent of the Organising Authority.

11. TIDES

Saturday, February 07, 2026

HIGH 1.53mtr @ 11:03 (GCS)

LOW 0.56mtr @ 18:51 (BB)

Sunday, February 08, 2026

HIGH 2.05mtr @ 00:52 (BB)

LOW 0.75mtr @ 06:54 (BB)

HIGH 2.11mtr @ 12:53 (BB)

LOW 0.60mtr @ 19:19 (BB)

GCS – Gold Coast Seaway

BB – Brisbane Bar

This is a guide only. Please check tide data prior to the race.

13. VHF CHANNELS

VHF Channels required are 12, 16, 21, 67, 72, 73, 81 and 82

14. BERTHING

14.1 Southport

Berthing bookings and arrangements for Southport Yacht Club (SYC) must be organised directly through QCYC. A berthing fee will be applied by SYC. Berthing will be allocated the week of the race. Due to availability, late entries may not be allocated a berth.

14.2 Shorncliffe

Berthing will be allocated on arrival at QCYC. The Club undertakes to provide a berth for all competitors in so far as is possible however skippers are required to assist in this regard by asking the Race Office or Marina Marshalls (if present) for berth allocations prior to leaving the boat and by ensuring space is not wasted due to inconsiderate berthing; large multihulls in particular MUST obtain a berth allocation prior to leaving the boat.

The ends of the T-Heads are reserved for offshore fleet monohulls where there is approximately 3m LAT. Berthing is free of charge until 1000 hours on Tuesday, February 10th, 2026.

15. LAUNCHING & RETRIEVING OF TRAILERABLES

15.1 SYC Hollywell

Entrants may use the SYC Hollywell facilities for launching and retrieving of boats by arrangement with the Hollywell Sailing Squadron. Trailers and vehicles must not be left on the property unless specifically directed. Use of the crane is limited. For further information regarding SYC Hollywell contact them on: 07 5537 7030.

15.2 SYC Main Beach

Entrants may use the SYC Main Beach facilities for launching and retrieving of boats by arrangement with the SYC Marina Office on 5591 8577. Trailers and vehicles may be left on the property providing all owner details are provided to the Marina Office. No responsibility is assumed for property left on premises.

15.3 QCYC

The Club ramp and adjacent upstream public ramp will be available for recovery. All boats with trailers must be removed from the water at the first opportunity.

Non-members parking for vehicles and trailers is available in the overflow parking area on the other side of the road from the club on the grass area.

16. BUS TRANSPORT TO SOUTHPORT

Buses will be available to transport crews from QCYC to Southport prior to the race. Pick up points will be at QCYC and Old Cleveland Road. Refer to the Surf to City website for times and prices. Seats must be booked and paid for in advance. No refunds are available.

17. TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

The overall winners and divisional winners will be announced and presented with trophies at a presentation ceremony held at Queensland Cruising Yacht Club on Sunday 08th February 2026, time to be advised. Prizes not collected during the presentation will not be available for collection at a later date. Full details will be outlined in the Sailing Instructions.

The 2026 Surf to City Yacht Race shall be a qualifying race for the 2026 Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht race.

18. DISCLAIMER

All those taking part in the race do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew members must be informed of this by their skipper and are deemed to acknowledge this, and release the Organising Authority, Sponsors and their respective officers, employees, volunteers, and members, from all liability.

Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states:

“The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a cruising event or race, or to continue racing is theirs alone”

APPENDIX A – PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Friday, February 06	COMPULSORY Competitors Meeting	SYC	2030
Saturday, February 07	Inshore Multihull - warning signal not before	Broadwater	0905
	Inshore faster Monohulls - warning signal not before	Broadwater	0915
	Inshore slower Monohull – warning signal not before	Broadwater	0925
	Offshore Monohull – warning signal not before	Gold Coast Seaway	0945
	Offshore Multihull – warning signal not before	Gold Coast Seaway	0955



QUEENSLAND CRUISING YACHT CLUB

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please visit www.surftocity.com or contact:

Vice Commodore: Linda Honey
0428 882 876

Queensland Cruising Yacht Club Inc. (QCYC),
Phone: 07 3269 4588

Email: raceentries@qcyc.com.au

Sinbad Street, Shorncliffe, QLD, 4017.
PO Box 399, Sandgate, QLD, 4017

The event is run with the assistance of
Southport Yacht Club Inc. (SYC)
1 Macarthur Parade, Main Beach, Qld 4217.
Phone (07) 5537 7030

QCYC would like to acknowledge our main supporters for our sail racing events:



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